

8484 Westpark Drive Suite 900 McLean VA 22102 (703) 744-8000

Facsimile (703) 744-8001

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Examiner Sean E. Conley

Company:

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Fax Number:

(703) 746-8859

Phone Number:

(703) 305-2430

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Kristina M. Castellano

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<u>IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</u>

In re Application of: Gary Carman et al.

Application No. 09/903,685

Group Art Unit: 1744

Filed: July 13, 2001

Examiner: Scan E. Conley

For:

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Hon. Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits of the Request for Continued Examination filed on June 20, 2003, Applicants respectfully request that the above-captioned application be amended as set forth below.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification are on page 4 of this paper.